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The Roman Empire (B.C. 29–A.D. 476). By H. STUART JONES. ("Story of the Nations Series.") New York: Putnams, 1908. Pp. xxiii+476. With maps and illustrations.

An Outline History of the Roman Empire (44 B.C. to 378 A.D.). By WILLIAM STEARNS DAVIS. New York: Macmillan, 1908. Pp. ix+222. \$0.65.

The first of these books is a solid, fine piece of work, a presentation of the history of the Roman Empire at once popular and reliable. Furthermore, it meets a real need of the English-reading public, which until very recently has had no satisfactory, convenient guide through the period. This need was partially met by the remarkable one-volume treatment of the whole of Roman history by Mr. H. F. Pelham, but the limitation of space made that treatment brief, especially on the personal side. Mr. Jones, by devoting his whole volume to the Empire, is enabled to go into considerably greater detail.

True to the title of the series the book is a story—distinctly a narrative, and one well sustained throughout. It deals, however, not merely with the political side, but with all the other varied sides—institutional, social, intellectual, etc.—of historical development. It would indeed be difficult to find an important topic on which the book would not give satisfactory information. One finds told there with great clearness the story of the slow transformation of Republican institutions into those of an absolute monarchy; of Christianity's conquest of the Empire; of the gradual barbarization of the army and the culture of the Empire. This fulness of treatment combined with a reasonably good index makes the book a useful work of reference.

Other features of the book are equally satisfactory. The illustrations in particular are excellent, being photographic reproductions of buildings, statues, busts, and coins. The genealogical and chronological tables are helpful, as are also the maps, although these latter are by no means a noteworthy feature of the volume. In conclusion one may well emphasize the scholarly spirit and the literary feeling which pervade and animate the whole work.

It is the latter of these qualities, literary feeling, that may be said chiefly to characterize the second book under discussion. Mr. Davis has attempted to give us a primer on the same period as that covered by the more elaborate work of Mr. Jones. Mr. Davis' specific object was to meet a need felt in teaching college classes in mediaeval history. The book might very well help to bridge the gap, between the death of Augustus and the fall of the Empire, that frequently used to exist in the student's knowledge. But whether with the accounts of Myers, Botsford, West, and Pelham this little book offers enough in the way of more recent views, fuller information, different proportion, and attractiveness of style to justify its existence may be a question.

The appendix contains useful chronological data and information on the magistracies and on provincial administration.

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